



# The Chinese Tract Society.

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13 PEKING ROAD, SHANGHAI.

WHERE it has constantly on hand a good assortment of Chinese and English books. Catalogues sent free on application.

The Society publishes two monthly Magazines in Chinese.

*The Child's Paper* will enter its thirtieth year in May. Each issue contains a vast amount of high-class matter, such as memoirs, cases of conversion, interesting incidents in the progress of the Gospel, stories, news items, and ably and carefully written articles on a great variety of religious and other topics.

There are two editions, one with and one without the Sunday School Lessons for the month.

*The Chinese Illustrated News* in May will commence its twenty-fifth year. It forms a bond of union and means of communication between the scattered native converts of all denominations throughout the empire and in the different parts of the world where they are dispersed, giving them religious intelligence and secular news from various parts of their country and other lands.


These two periodicals—*The Child's Paper* and *The Illustrated News*—seem to exactly and especially meet the wants of the native church and the case of enquirers who wish to know something of Christianity, and are doing a most important work in a literary and scientific way. They are everywhere cordially welcomed by the missionaries and native Christians who give them a generous support in contributions of articles and obtaining subscribers. The articles are usually written in a brief, lively, simple style, on such subjects as history, biography, travels, the manners and customs of different nations, the various sciences, rail-roads, education, telephones, etc., together with the discussion of religious topics intended to help the native converts to advance in Christian knowledge and spiritual life and activity.

These Magazines appear on the first and middle of each month, and, taken together, are equivalent to a fortnightly Magazine. They are profusely and beautifully illustrated with cuts furnished for the purpose by the Religious and American Tract Societies, and everything possible is done to keep them up to the very high class character they have always maintained. At present there is nothing like them. Taken together they cost much less than any other similar paper, and including space for illustrations, contain several thousand more characters.

The subscription is fixed at the following low rates:—

<i>The Child's Paper</i> , per annum...	...	\$0.30
With the <i>Sunday School Lessons</i> , per annum	...	0.40
Ten copies to one address	...	3.50
<i>The Chinese Illustrated News</i> , per annum	...	0.40

Postage, if any, included.

 Please send all orders and pay all bills to the Mission Press, Shanghai.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT

—OF THE—

✓  
Chinese Tract Society.


(The Ninth after the union with the Eastern  
China Religious Tract Society.)

1903.

SHANGHAI:

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## Annual Meeting.

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The Annual Meeting was held December the 3rd, at 61 Range Road.

The Vice-President, the Rev. Dr. Parker, presided.

There were present : Rev. W. Nelson Bitton, A. T. S., Mr. Bao Yen-tsang, Rev. Timothy Richard, D.D., Rev. Tsu Tsok-san, Rev. J. E. Cardwell, Mr. Dzung Ts-koh, Rev. J. M. W. Farnham, D.D., Mr. Kau Voong-z, Rev. P. Kranz, Mr. Y. S. Lee, Mr. A. J. H. Moule, Rev. C. J. F. Symons, B.A., Mr. T. S. Wong, Rev. S. K. Wo'ng, Rev. Yu Koh-tsung, Mr. V. W. Zee, Rev. Tsang Pao-tsu, and by invitation the Rev. Hunter Corbett, D.D.

The President asked the Rev. H. Corbett, D.D. to open the meeting with prayer. The Secretary's Report was read by Rev. Dr. Farnham, in English, and by Mr. V. W. Zee in Chinese.

It was moved by the Rev. W. N. Bitton that the Report be approved and published. The motion was seconded by Rev. Timothy Richard, D.D., and carried unanimously. The Treasurer's Report, which had been audited by Mr. Jas. H. Osborne, was read by the Treasurer, the Rev. J. E. Cardwell, and unanimously approved.

Vacancies were filled on the Board of Directors by the election of the Rev. S. I. Woodbridge and Mr. Y. S. Lee. On the Board of Trustees: Rev. A. J. Walker, Rev. Tsu Pau-yuen, and Mr. Zia Wai-yū. On the Examining Committee: The Rev. S. I. Woodbridge and the Rev. James Ware.

The Rev. C. J. F. Symons, and Mr. V. W. Zee were elected Recording Secretaries.

Mr. James H. Osborne was cordially thanked for his services and elected Hon. Auditor for the coming year.

The meeting was closed with prayer by the Rev. Tsang Pau-tsu and the benediction by the Chairman.

#### Annual Sermon.

The annual sermon in Chinese was preached in the Lowrie Memorial Church, December the 6th, at three o'clock in the afternoon, by the Rev. Fong Yuen-fu, of the American Southern Methodist Mission. It was an able sermon on "Bearing Much Fruit." He was followed by the Rev. Tsang Pau-tsū, of the American Presbyterian Mission, in an earnest address, applying and enforcing the subject of the sermon, showing how his hearers could use their means and themselves for the Chinese Tract Society. The other churches were closed, so the house was well filled with native Christians and missionaries. In the absence of the Rev. Dr. J. Edkins, who is confined to his room by sickness, the Rev. Dr. A. P. Parker, Vice-President, presided and conducted the opening exercises. The Annual Report was read by Mr. V. W. Zee, one of the Secretaries, and showed a good year's work, speaking of the printing amounting to more than fifteen millions of pages. After an address by the president congratulating the patrons on the prosperity of the Society, a collection was taken, amounting to \$17.82, and the meeting closed with the benediction by the Rev. Timothy Richard, of the English Baptist Mission.

#### The Sermon in English

was preached in the evening, in Union Church, by the Rev. Hunter Corbett, D.D., who was present at the meeting preparatory to the organization of the Society twenty-five years ago. It was an earnest and able sermon, full of interesting anecdote and illustration.

# The Annual Report

## OF THE

### Chinese Tract Society.

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Thanks to the good providence of God, we are permitted to report a year of unprecedented prosperity. Our bills for printing have reached the sum of more than seven thousand dollars, and we had nearly nine thousand dollars' worth of work if we had been able to get it done.

While grateful, and rejoicing in our unexampled success, we have to mourn the loss of four of our co-labourers, members of our Board of Trustees.

During the past year the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., the Rev. Dzung Soong-lu, the Rev. Tsiu Jin-kwae, and the Rev. Tsu Niok-dong have all been called to their reward.

The Rev. Dzung Soong-lu, of the American Church Mission, was a member of the Board for many years, and the Rev. Tsiu Jin-kwae, of the American Baptist Mission, was a member of the Board from the organization of the Society until his lamented death, both heartily seeking the good of the Society. Mr. Dzung often delivered an earnest address at our annual meetings, and Mr. Tsiu wrote many articles for the magazines and was a member of the Examining Committee from the beginning till a few years ago, when the work had reached such dimensions as to make it desirable to have the Examining Committee all in Shanghai. The Rev. Mr. Hodges and the Rev. Tsu Niok-dong, who delivered an earnest address at our last Annual Chinese Meeting, both took a lively interest in the Society, and we shall miss them at our annual gathering, where they were always present when possible.

## A BOOK SOCIETY.

As the Secretary of the American Tract Society predicted, and wrote when we first organized, ours is already more of a book than tract society. By far the greater part of our work this year has been publishing large books.

## NEW WORKS.

On our list of twenty-seven new works there appears but one *sheet tract* and but one book of less than 10 pages. Seven are books of more than 100 pages and fourteen more have from 24 to 98 pages, and one, the fourth volume of Mr. A. J. H. Moule's Commentary,—Proverbs to Lamentations, is a book of 294 pages. All these have been printed in editions of at least 3,000; others still have appeared in editions of 10,000, 12,000, 13,000, 20,000, and even 100,000.

The number of pages in the edition of one of these works is from 10,000 up to 500,000, and the edition of Mr. A. J. H. Moule's Commentary reaches the enormous number of 1,176,000 pages.

## REPRINTS.

The table of twenty-five reprints shows many small books and sheet tracts, yet in this list is a reprint of Mr. A. J. H. Moule's second volume of his Commentary—Joshua to Chronicles—a work of 240 pages; the whole edition containing 720,000 pages.

## THE WIDE DIFFUSION OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.

The importance of our Society and its work appears when we consider that there is no other organization in China prepared to undertake the publication of the Com-

mentaries and most of the religious works on our list, and that with our Local Secretaries scattered so widely over the empire of China and in other parts of the world, where Chinese have migrated, we have from this great commercial center the best possible means and facilities for the diffusion of Christian and useful knowledge among this people wherever they reside or wander, and we confidently offer to co-operate with all and any who have this work at heart.

#### GREAT ASSORTMENT OF BOOKS.

To our own stock is added a good assortment of books and tracts published by others in Chinese and English.

We have a great variety of books for children and youth, handsomely illustrated, and a great amount of useful and interesting reading for church members to help them in preparing for greater usefulness.

#### ADAPTED TO IMMEDIATE WANTS.

China must in the main finally depend on her own people for pastors, preachers, colporteurs, and Christian teachers, and there is no more important work than giving them the means for the necessary preparation.

#### SHOULD BE MORE WIDELY CIRCULATED.

Our commentaries and other helps to understanding the Bible should be circulated by the tens of thousands to reach the pastors, preachers, and students who need them. What better work for one of God's people than to help supply this want? Ten dollars would give a native preacher a copy of each of the more than fifty commentaries on our list.

## THE MAGAZINES.

Everything possible is being done to keep our two monthly magazines up to the highest standard and make them worthy of the generous support they receive.

## THEY HOLD THEIR OWN.

Notwithstanding so many other magazines and papers have come forward, claiming a share of patronage, our magazines have continued to hold their own to a remarkable degree, there being an increase of circulation this year over last of 540 copies.

## “THE PORT EDWARD INTELLIGENCER.”

By an arrangement with J. Norman Case, M.D., we have published a local edition of *The Chinese Illustrated News* for Wei-hai-wei, called *The Port Edward Intelligencer*.

With the exception of the covers, it contains exactly the same matter as *The Chinese Illustrated News*. Dr. Case has shown great enterprise in thus extending the circulation of one of our magazines, and it is to be hoped that other places will follow his example.

## ABLE TO MEET INCREASED DEMANDS.

Notwithstanding there is likely to be a large demand, as the country is more and more thrown open and Christianity is tolerated, it is safe to say the Society is prepared to publish every good book approved by its Examining Committee and needed by the native church or the missionaries.



## OUR ABIDING AIM.

Our great object is to issue a literature that may be blest of God in bringing souls to Christ, or, as some prefer to put it, in "carrying Christ to poor, needy, sinful men."

We regard the people of this vast and wealthy country as one of the most interesting and hopeful to be found anywhere, and esteem it a privilege to have part in a work so well adapted to their regeneration.

## CREATING CORRECT PUBLIC OPINION.

The Chinese leaders of thought and public sentiment are turning in every direction, seeking light, wondering how China can be so reformed as to take her place among the nations. The great reformation she most needs, and indeed must have, is moral—is the new spiritual life which Christianity alone can give.

## THE REFORMERS.

Raising up reformers and starting them on the way to torture and execution, will only lead to cutting off the flower and hope of China.

Our literature has but one object,—the reformation of the heart. And all must agree that this is the first and great want in China. Only honest, upright Christian men can become good mandarins, or can create an upright and reliable government.

## CO-LABOURERS.

For literary help we acknowledge our indebtedness to the following writers who have contributed articles for our magazines: The Rev. C. W. Allan, J. Norman Case;

M.D., Rev. C. S. Champness, Mrs. H. C. DuBose, Mrs. M. J. Farnham, Miss Mary Gale, M.D., Rev. G. W. Hinman, Mrs. Spencer Lewis, Rev. D. N. Lyon, Rev. D. MacGillivray, B.D., Miss M. Melvin, Mr. A. J. H. Moule, Mr. Henry Price, Mrs. Timothy Richard, Rev. E. F. Scholes, Rev. R. A. Torrey, D.D., Messrs. Bao Siao-ju, Chen Kuan-hai, A. P. Chien, Z. F. Dzau, T. S. Dzung, K. H. Daen, T. K. Dzung, Y. M. King, M.D., T. S. Tsoong, C. Y. Tsang, Rev. S. N. Tsiu, Rev. T. T. T'ong, Messrs. C. S. T'ong and M. Y. Woo.

The books and tracts published this year were prepared by the following authors:—

The Rev. C. W. Allan, Rev. W. Deans, Rev. H. C. DuBose, D.D., Rev. E. Faber, D.D., Mrs. M. M. Fitch, Mr. A. Foster, Rev. H. G. C. Hallock, Ph.D., Rev. James Jackson, Rev. W. A. P. Martin, D.D., LL.D., Mr. A. J. H. Moule, Ven. Archdeacon Moule, B.D., Mrs. J. L. Nevius, Rev. Dr. Noyes, Mr. W. Paterson, Mr. H. Price, Rev. John Ross, D.D., Rev. K. Y. Tsang, Mr. T. N. Tsoong, Rev. T. S. Tsu, Rev. A. L. Warshuis, and Rev. L. K. Yang.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations in aid of our funds:—

A collection from Union Church in connection with the Annual Sermon, \$48.74.

A collection taken at the Chinese Annual Meeting of \$12.57.

From the Hon. J. Gordon, M.P., £50. This sum was forwarded through Rev. George W. Clarke, who writes, to our Treasurer:—

DEAR MR. CARDWELL ;—

Herewith a wind-fall for the Chinese Tract Society. The Society was begun by . . . . . and self-consecrating to God some jewelry which a lady gave me . . . . . The lady who gave me the jewelry must have told her husband, who became interested in the Society, and after twenty-six years he writes : ' I enclose £50 as a thank-offering for my own recovery from a grave operation last autumn, for the Chinese Tract Society you helped to start some twenty-odd years back. I understand my wife's bit of jewelry, placed in your hands, was one of the earliest subscriptions.' The donor is Hon. J. Gordon, M.P."

Hon. Mrs. E. A. Gordon's handsome donation was alluded to in a previous report, showing God's wonderful providence towards her.

From the Rev. W. A. P. Martin, D.D., LL.D., we have received a donation of \$20.00, from Mr. Wong Hang-tong \$22.00 and from Mr. Kau Voong-z \$10.00.

#### THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY, LONDON,

has sent us its usual contribution of £150 towards our ordinary work, and the Society's Corresponding Secretary, Rev. Richard Lovett, M.A., in forwarding it, holds out some hope of further aid in printing the

#### CONFERENCE COMMENTARY.

This work is an outcome of the last General Conference, which ordered it to be prepared, and appointed an Executive Committee to select scholars, eminent for piety and learning, as commentators.

The Executive Committee solicited funds from the two great Tract Societies to cover the preparatory work, such as expenses for traveling, Chinese writers, copyists, etc.

Rev. J. W. Stevenson, Secretary and Treasurer of the Executive Committee, acknowledges as received from the Religious Tract Society of London, £215.5.1 and from the American Tract Society, New York, £122.2.11.

The Rev. Richard Lovett, M.A., the Corresponding Secretary of

THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY OF LONDON,

in charge of this correspondence, writing under date of August 17th, 1903, says of their contributions:—

"The following is a complete list, taken from our books, of the grants made from the Missionary Fund specifically for the Conference Commentary."

Jan., 1895	Towards	first year's work	£50. 0.0
May., 1897	"	1897 preliminary expenses	50. 0.0
Oct., 1897	"	half deficit of "	2. 9.6
Aug., 1898	"	current year's work	30. 0.0
" 1898	"	preliminary expenses	75. 9.8
July, 1899	Centenary grant		200. 0.0
Aug., 1899	Towards 1889 preliminary expenses		30. 0.0
Oct., 1900	Centenary grant		150. 0.0
Jan., 1901	Towards translator's expenses		30. 0.0
"	Centenary grant towards deficit		10. 0.0
July, 1902	Towards expenses		12.10.0
			<hr/>
			£640. 9.2

It is evident, at a glance, that all these grants but two were in aid of the preparatory work.

The sum of £200, granted in 1899, was given to help print the Conference Commentary on the New Testament; and in 1900, when we were ready to begin work on the Old Testament, the £150 was contributed, and both are acknowledged in our Reports at the time.

The Religious Tract Society was the first to come to our help in publishing the Conference Commentary on the whole Bible.

## THE AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY'S PART.

The Rev. G. L. Shearer, D.D., Corresponding Secretary in charge of this correspondence, writes March 27th, 1903: "We have paid for the Commentary \$1,100 in gold." Of this sum, \$250 gold, being a part of the £112.5.5, was duly acknowledged in our last Report.

Thus it will be seen that the Religious Tract Society of London has thus far *borne a very large share of the expense of printing the Conference Commentary*—indeed the *entire* expense till the \$250 in gold, from the American Tract Society, came so opportunely.

This gigantic work has been carefully, prayerfully, and conscientiously prepared by men of great piety and learning, and our friends in Great Britain and America can easily imagine what a boon it will be to the native Christians in China when they have so few helps to understanding the Bible.

## THE EXPENSE OF THE WORK.

Our printer's bills for the parts of the Conference Commentary already published, amounted to \$7,394.66; the contributions above alluded to, from both Tract Societies, lacked \$2,669.84 of paying these bills. This has been made up from current sales, or by drawing on the resources for our ordinary work.

As far as we can estimate for the coming year we shall require the following sums:—

For printing works now on hand, including the Conference Commentary on the New Testament, nearly out of stock .. .. .	\$ 9,317.51
New books and reprints to keep up our stock, estimated at .. .. .	7,821.22
Sundry other expenses .. .. .	1,617.37
	<u>\$18,756.10</u>

To meet this we have cash on hand	... ..	\$ 5,969.90
Estimated income from sales and subscriptions for the magazines, etc.	... ..	6,019.79
From Religious Tract Society and others..	... ..	2,453.25
Amount required above and over last year's grants, say		<u>4,313.16</u>
		<u>\$18,756.10</u>

This budget shows that so far as we can estimate the coming year's income and expenditure we shall require over and above such an income as we received last year, \$4,313.16, or about £431.6.8. We do not know where this large sum can come from, but we go forward assured that if the Lord wants us to do this work He will furnish the means.

#### S. S. PAPERS IN SHANGHAI COLLOQUIAL.

The Shanghai Vernacular Society has practically become an auxiliary of our Society.

Its general secretary, the Rev. J. A. Silsby, reports that of its Sunday School Lessons and Quarterlies, 68,500 copies have been published, making 322,850 pages, at a cost of \$249.50, which will be entirely covered by the subscriptions.

#### GRANTS.

As requested by the Religious Tract Society of London, we have made our usual grant to the British and Foreign Bible Society of 100,000 copies of the Ven. Archdeacon Moule's "The Bible Explained," or "Introduction to the Bible."

Mr. W. Leonard Thompson, Acting Agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society at Shanghai, writes:—

"The Introductions which are so kindly granted by your Society have proved, and are proving, most useful. It is difficult to say anything about them, for the simple reason that they are

taken so much as a matter of course, and people who distribute seldom say anything about them. But nearly everyone who sends an order for books asks for Introductions with them. They are given away and are a great help to the purchaser of the Scriptures in the understanding thereof.

Mr. Burkwall, one of our sub-agents, writes : 'I find the Introductions very serviceable and think I shall use a large number from this on.' The other sub-agents have also, from time to time, written in a similar strain.

Allow me to say that this Society is greatly indebted to your Society for the generous grants it makes of this almost indispensable tract."

### THE YEAR'S WORK.

The Society's bills for printing, etc., during the year have amounted to \$9,078.59.

We have printed 581,500 copies of books and tracts. Reckoned in 12mo. pages they would make 15,453,650 pages. There have been distributed from the Depository 287,849 copies, making about 7,617,998 pages.

The record of the year would not be complete without mention of our indebtedness to the Rev. C. J. F. S. Symons, B.A., of the Church Missionary Society, for faithful and careful attention to the work of publication, etc., during all the summer months, from May to September, for which he will please accept this grateful mention.

This ends the year's work. We thank the Lord for the privilege of working another year for the salvation of souls. We thank all our patrons for their generous support.

Our books and leaflets have been scattered far and wide, reaching many distant and different homes, and we hope have reached many hearts, revealing to them the way of life and salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## New Works.

No.	Name of Book.	Author.	Pages.	Copies.
1.	Conference Commentary on Genesis ...	Rev. JAMES JACKSON.	166	3,000
2.	" " " Exodus ...	Do.	146	3,000
3.	" " " Leviticus ...	Do.	98	3,000
4.	" " " Numbers ...	Do.	140	3,000
5.	" " " Joshua ...	Rev. Dr. H. C. DuBOSE.	94	3,000
6.	" " " I. Samuel ...	Do.	136	3,000
7.	" " " II. Samuel ...	Do.	114	3,000
8.	" " " Job ...	Rev. Dr. JOHN ROSS.	144	3,000
9.	" " " Proverbs ...	Rev. Dr. H. C. DuBOSE.	116	3,000
10.	" " " Song of Solomon ...	Do.	30	2,000
11.	" " " Lamentations ...	Rev. Dr. H. V. NOYES.	26	3,000
12.	Commentary on Proverbs to Lamentations.	A. J. H. MOULE, B.A.	294	4,000
13.	The Four Character Classic ...	Rev. A. L. WARNSHUIS.	12	3,000
14.	A Hundred Texts ...	...	30	3,000
15.	Remember the Sabbath ...	Rev. K. Y. TSANG.	34	3,000
16.	Catechism of the Two Religions ...	Rev. L. K. YANG.	40	3,000
17.	Chinese Almanac ...	Rev. H. G. C. HALLOCK, Ph.D.	36	5,000
18.	The Evils of Gambling ...	Rev. C. W. ALLAN.	24	3,000
19.	Story of the Other Wise Man ...	Mrs. M. M. FITCH.	52	3,000
20.	Simple Talk About the Truth ...	Do.	28	3,000
21.	The Evils of Falsehood ...	Rev. C. W. ALLAN.	10	3,000
22.	Catechism on the Old Testament ...	Mrs. A. FOSTER.	52	3,000
23.	Free Salvation ...	Mr. H. PRICE.	Sheet	10,000
24.	Calendar ...	C. T. S.	8	74,000
25.	The Chinese Illustrated News ...	Do.	24	20,800
26.	The Child's Paper ...	Do.	16	13,200
27.	" " " and Sunday School Lessons...	Do.	24	12,600
28.	Sunday School Lessons Quarterlylies.	Shanghai Coll. S. V. S.		4,150
29.	" " " Leaves	Do.		64,350
				266,500

## Works Reprinted.

No.	Name of Book.	Author.	Pages.	Copies.
1.	Commentary on Joshua to Chronicles ...	A. J. H. MOULE, B.A.	240	3,000
2.	Evidences of Christianity ...	Rev. Dr. W. A. P. MARTIN.	168	3,000
3.	Instruction of Women ...	Rev. Dr. E. FABER.	6	10,000
4.	Points of Sacred Teaching ...	Do.	6	10,000
5.	Human Nature ...	Do.	6	10,000
6.	Creation and Rest ...	Do.	6	10,000
7.	Male and Female Enter the Church ...	Do.	6	10,000
8.	Lamentations from Hades ...	Do.	6	10,000
9.	Eternal ...	Do.	6	10,000
10.	God's Ten Commandments ...	Do.	6	10,000
11.	Errors of Ancestral Worship ...	Rev. J. L. NEVIUS, D.D.	16	3,000
12.	Time to Enter Port ...	Rev. H. G. C. HALLOCK.	Sheet	10,000



13.	Introduction to Genesis	...	...	Rev. Dr. H. C. DuBOSE.	Sheet	10,000
14.	Easy Prayers	...	...	Do.	"	10,000
15.	The Bible Explained	...	...	Archdeacon MOULE.	6	110,000
16.	Repentance and Faith	...	...	Rev. Dr. H. C. DuBOSE.	Sheet	10,000
17.	Resurrection	...	...	Do.	"	10,000
18.	Regeneration	...	...	Do.	"	10,000
19.	The True Happiness	...	...	Mr. T. N. TSOONG.	"	10,000
20.	Trusting Heaven for Food	...	...	Do.	"	10,000
21.	The Sower	...	...	Mr. TSU TSOH-SAN.	"	10,000
22.	Jimmy's Conversion	...	...	Mr. PATERSON.	"	10,000
23.	On Prayer	...	...	Rev. Dr. E. FABER.	6	10,000
24.	Catechism of Christian Doctrine	...	...	Mrs. J. L. NEVIUS.	44	3,000
25.	Child's Catechism	...	...	Rev. W. DEANS.	26	3,000
						<hr/> 315,000

### Works Ready for Publication and in Press.

1.	Conference Commentary on Daniel	...	...	Rev. Dr. NOYES.
2.	"	"	I. Kings	Rev. Dr. DuBOSE.
3.	"	"	II. Kings	Do.
4.	"	"	Ezekiel	Rev. Dr. NOYES.
5.	"	"	Jeremiah	Do.
6.	"	"	Judges	Rev. Dr. DuBOSE.
7.	"	"	Ruth	Do.
8.	"	"	I. Chronicles	Rev. Dr. PARKER.
9.	"	"	II. Chronicles	Do.
10.	"	"	Ezra	Rev. Dr. PARKER.
11.	"	"	Nehemiah	Do.
12.	"	"	Esther	Do.
13.	"	"	Ecclesiastes	Rev. JAMES JACKSON.
14.	"	"	Isaiah 1-39	Rev. Dr. NOYES.
15.	Gospel Sermons (52)	...	...	Archdeacon MOULE.
16.	Help to Intercession	...	...	Rev. D. MACGILLVRAY.
17.	Commentary on Epistle to Titus	...	...	Rev. G. CLAYTON.
18.	Expectation Corners (in Mandarin)	...	...	Mrs. M. M. FITCH.
19.	On Prayer	...	...	Rev. Dr. FABER.
20.	Man from Whence?	...	...	Rev. Dr. MUIRHEAD.
21.	The Sunday Calendar.			
22.	Jesus First	...	...	Rev. D. N. LYON.
23.	The Resurrection	...	...	Rev. C. F. HOGG.
24.	We Should Worship God	...	...	Do.
25.	Chinese Almanac	...	...	Rev. H. G. C. HALLOCK]
26.	Stories of Girls	...	...	Mr. C. S. T'ONG.
27.	The Way of Salvation	...	...	Mr. C. SCHMIDT.
28.	The Palace of the Bible	...	...	Rev. G. W. CLARKE.
29.	How About the Future	...	...	Mr. YANG FONG-TSU.
30.	The Way to Happiness	...	...	Dr. J. N. CASE.
31.	Salvation in Its Three-fold Aspect	...	...	Do.
32.	Five Relationships	...	...	Do.

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## Annual Sermon.

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*Preached in Union Church, Shanghai, December  
6th, 1903.*

BY HUNTER CORBETT, D.D., OF CHEFOO.

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### Shepherd and Lambs.

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd. He shall gather the lambs with His arms and carry them in His bosom and shall gently lead those that are with young. Isaiah xl. 11.

The text contains a prophecy of the promised Messiah, the great Shepherd, and His care for His flock. Jesus spoke of Himself as the Good Shepherd, who giveth His life for the sheep and who knows His sheep by name. His sheep know Him, hear His voice, follow Him, and shall never perish; neither shall any man pluck them out of his hand.

The Apostle Peter calls Jesus the *Chief Shepherd*, also the *Shepherd* and *Bishop* of your souls. The writer of Hebrews calls Him the *Great Shepherd of the Sheep*. Jesus fulfilled the true ideals of a shepherd and left an example of how His flock should be fed, protected, guided and comforted. Jesus comforted His disciples by saying: "Fear not little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

The flock evidently includes children and youth as well as those of older years.

In the text, however, special mention is made of the lambs and the shepherd's tender care for them. Doubtless the lambs include not only all who are young in years but also young converts, feeble believers, tempted,

afflicted and discouraged ones who are in the narrow way, which leadeth into life.

When the disciples contended, saying who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, Jesus said to them: "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

From this it would seem as though children were the only ones certainly qualified for the heavenly world.

When the disciples rebuked the mothers for bringing their young children to Jesus, He was displeased and said unto them: Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them and blessed them. He did more than the mothers asked. When the rulers and educated men were unmoved by the mighty works done by Jesus, He turned His thoughts to the children, the hope of the future, and said: "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent and hast revealed them unto babes." Does not the missionary often require, in order to keep hope bright and courage in good repair, to think of the young and rising generation and the possibilities of the future?

When the priests and scribes were displeased at the children crying in the temple and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David, Jesus defended them by saying: "Have ye never read, out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?"

Christ's intense love for children and the prominent place He gave them in His church and in His teaching,

is a marked characteristic which distinguished Him from all the great teachers which preceded Him. Under every circumstance He took the children's part and showed Himself their unfailing friend. "Christ gave the child a place in the thoughts of men, secured the recognition of the sanctity of its life, and brought it blessing by being Himself a child." He never forgot, as many seem to, that He Himself had been a child. He kept His own heart young and tender and sympathetic and invariably showed the utmost love and tenderness and sympathy for children. He honored them by giving them His own name of LAMB. He loved to call the children LAMBS, the harmless and helpless, requiring the shepherd's constant watchfulness and care. "It is a very deep and beautiful and precious truth that the eternal son had a human and progressive childhood." Of Jesus it is recorded, "the child grew and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him."

Again at the age of twelve it is said: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."

Is not this the perfect standard recorded for the study of every parent and for every child?

Does not Christ's example and teaching plainly show that to become a little child in spirit is not only a requisite for admission into the kingdom of heaven but also for leadership in the kingdom He came to set up on earth?

Should not every one often ask the question in all seriousness:—Am I constantly learning from the children, the heavenly appointed teachers, the priceless lessons of *humility, faith, love, trust, gladness, hopefulness, contentment* and a *teachable Spirit*? Do I daily practice th

lesson of the text and give the children the love, the sympathy and place Christ gave them?

Ruskin says: "The first test of a truly great man is his humility." Where do we find pure and undefiled humility except in the child? Children can teach as no others, lessons of naturalness and many qualities essential to a noble and worthy character. There is an indiscribable "quality of heart and of life which gives directness to all actions and a certain beautiful unconsciousness of self, an outgoing of the whole nature which we see in children" as nowhere else. They are not handicapped by traditional and paralyzing formalism, nor by moral prejudices which blunt men to the right choice between truth and falsehood.

If we fail to learn well the lessons the children were appointed to teach, what are our qualifications for the Master's service and especially for shepherding the flock which He purchased with His blood?

If all church members, but especially parents and teachers, were to make the portrait of child life a deep and lifelong study and translate the lessons learned into daily and hourly life, it would clothe them with irresistible power for good and bring a new life into the world and into every home. A new song would then fill every mouth, even praise to our God.

After Christ's resurrection His first command to Peter was, "Feed my lambs." Afterwards He said: "Feed my sheep." It would seem that the lambs have the first claim upon the shepherd's care. And also that love for Jesus is an indispensable qualification for this responsible and important work. One has written:—If an infant from its birth be secluded from the light, deprived of proper food, air and exercise, it would grow up feeble and

deformed. The same infant, if properly nourished and trained, would arrive at manhood vigorous and symmetrical. There is all this and far greater—because higher and permanent—difference between an educated and uneducated human soul.

It is because the mind is by nature dark that it needs illumination from without. It is because the conscience is callous and perverse that it needs to be rounded and guided. It is because evil propensities are so strong that they must be counteracted. To leave a fallen human being therefore to grow up without religious instruction is to render its perdition certain.

The same cause which makes religious instruction necessary at all requires that it should be assiduous and long continued. "Knowledge comes by experience and experience takes time," for "precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little and there a little." I suppose this means that truth must be repeated until it becomes impossible to forget it.

"That the soul be without knowledge is not good."

In this age the man who has no resources supplied by reading and reflection is indeed to be pitied. He is unable to fulfil the purpose of his being and is liable to rush into errors fatal to his welfare and happiness.

"Let us never forget that ignorance is not simply the negation of knowledge; it is not the mere absence of good but the presence of an evil."

"If the mind works not for good, it works for evil. If it grasp not golden knowledge, it will clutch at whatever lies nearest." The mind is an open book. It is therefore a matter of vital importance that it should from

the earliest period be traced with characters of truth and knowledge.

Does not Jesus speak to pastors, parents and teachers in every generation as He did to Peter, "Feed my Lambs?"

Should not all keep in memory God's own Words, "The Lord maketh Himself families like a flock." And "Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord." Then let all heed the command, "Feed the flock of God which is among you." "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

Every effort should be made to deeply impress on the heart of all parents three things of supreme importance:—

*First.* That by the express and repeated command of God, duty has been laid upon parents not only to provide food and raiment but to educate and train their children for usefulness in God's service.

This requires that parents qualify themselves thoroughly so as to be able to rule wisely and teach their children right knowledge.

Does not God speak to His people to-day as of old?

"Hear O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord. And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart and with all thy soul and with all thy might. And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart. And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children. And thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand. And they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.



And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house and on thy gates."

Exact, faithful, and loyal obedience to this command would, by the blessing of God, save many parents from going to the grave with hearts filled with sorrow on account of wilful and disobedient children.

In New Testament times the command was, "Provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

From this it is plain that rightly instructing, guiding and training children is a work requiring parents to have a conscience alive to its importance and to know how to faithfully do this work in the best possible way.

The neglect of this duty is one of the greatest injuries a parent can inflict upon himself and upon his children and one of the greatest offences he can commit against society and against God.

"If parents are incapable or unable to provide for the religious education of their children, then others must do the work for them. Children cannot innocently be allowed to grow up in ignorance of God and their duties to their fellow-men. No one can innocently sit still and see either the bodies or the souls of their fellow-men perish without constant and heroic effort to save them." Man's greatest need is to know the one living and true God and Jesus Christ, who is able to save unto the uttermost all who come unto God through Him. This knowledge, put into practice, will make the doers thereof bread to the hungry, medicine to the wounded, and shelter to the weak.

*Second.* Parents should constantly be reminded that the moral and intellectual education of a child cannot begin too early.

The babe soon knows the sound of its mother's voice and can echo back her smile and tones of love and tenderness. The child's mind, like the sensitive plate of a camera, takes the likeness of that to which it is exposed. If the child's heart is early turned towards Christ there will come into it ray after ray of Divine light until Christ's likeness will be formed.

Thus it was with Timothy, who from an infant knew the Holy Scriptures; consequently he is one of the few blameless characters mentioned in God's Word.

Parents should know that the first step in education is to awaken and hold the attention. The mind's activities must be stirred, the power of memory strengthened, truth fixed in the heart, and the mind taught to think and reason rightly.

Every soul is like a seed, and the supreme object of life is to grow and develop every faculty till the stature of the perfect man is produced. Failure to understand and act rightly is the cause of so many having eyes see not and having ears hear not, neither do they understand. If all understood how thoughts determine character and shape destiny, and believed the Scripture "as a man thinketh in heart so is he," it would change and ennoble many a life.

If all, but especially the young, were trained to think constantly only on things honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report, it would help to transform them into the image of the ideal they contemplate and spread happiness to the right and to the left. Opportunities soon pass never to return. Parents' time with their children is short. Children soon grow up and leave home. Many are taken away in early life. Often the parents are taken from them; therefore none should neglect the present but

rather with double diligence improve the golden opportunity. The duty of children to obey involves the duty of parents to command. If parents neglect to control, govern, and teach their children, the fifth commandment is broken by both parents and children.

A college student said with the deepest earnestness: "I would gladly give my right eye or my right hand if I could have evil and sinful thoughts forever banished from my heart and have given back to me the pure mind I had when a child." The only hope for anyone is the earnest prayer of the psalmist, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy Holy Spirit from me."

"If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin."

The right training of children is a work which glorifies God and at the same time brings rich and manifold blessings upon the faithful worker. Surely this is a work which should be of the greatest delight to the parent's heart.

Parents and teachers have opportunities given to none others to instil into the minds of the young a knowledge of the saving truths which can never perish. Nothing can compare to the ennobling truths of God's Word to keep pure the heart, the mind, and the conscience, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee." There is no power like the Word of God to inwardly fortify the heart and keep men from sin. The period of youth is the time when memory sows the seed for some future golden harvest. Was it not faithfulness on the part of parents in training

the young that helped mightily to make Joseph, Moses, and Daniel, and other Bible characters the honored and noble men they were? Men possessed of moral courage which enabled them in defiance of the world and every hindrance to triumph gloriously over every foe! A faithfulness which impelled them to duty as they saw it and a deathless resolve to hold fast integrity and maintain a conscience void of offence towards God and towards man. Their lives marked epochs in the world's history. They started influences for good which can never die. No one can fully estimate how much the church and the world really owe to such great men. Was it not failure to do the right work at the right time that caused the undoing of Eli and his sons? Alas that in so many homes children receive stones for bread and souls are murdered.

The heaviest penalties and the direct punishments are the legitimate and certain consequences of failure on the part of parents to do their whole duty to their children. Experience abundantly shows that true religion, ingrained with the earliest thoughts and moulded into the young formative life, can be a vitalizing power to control and regulate the heart and life; that the child with the example of true faith and an humble and Christ-like walk daily before him is the most apt to adopt these as his patterns and strive to emulate them.

In early life impressions are made which color the whole future. Then the bias is given, which largely determines character.

"As the twig is bent, the tree inclines." The influence of early training enters into everything we do and is as lasting as life. That the young form right habits, is a matter of vital consequence. Habit is like the

channel which dictates the course the river shall flow and grows deeper and deeper with each year.

Then let all be taught from early life the habit of daily prayer and Bible reading, the love of the Sabbath as a holy and blessed day, and love for God's people, and regular attendance at church. All should ever keep in mind that what God requires is "to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God." If children are not educated and trained for God and do not delight in His service, they will be taken captive by Satan.

"It is an undeniable fact," says a writer in Scotland, "that for several centuries vital Christianity in this country principally existed among the children of believing parents. The churches of the faithful were chiefly composed of those who had been brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, while their pulpits were occupied by the sons of godly and able ministers."

In 1802, concerning the state existing in the French Republic, these significant words were written: "For the want of a religious education for the last ten years our children are without any ideas of divinity, without notions of what is just and unjust. Hence arises barbarous manners, hence a people becomes ferocious. One cannot but sigh over the lot which threatens the present and future generations." What men sow they must reap. If they sow to the wind, they must reap the whirlwind.

Every family is a school in which the young are daily educated for good or for evil. The important question is whether parents will wisely direct it or let other teachers take their place.

Coleridge answered the objection of Thernal as to the danger of prejudicing children in favor of any system of

religious faith by showing him his garden, "which he had been unwilling to prejudice in favor of flowers and fruits and which in consequence had perversely chosen to grow up in weeds." God, heaven, eternity, judgment, personal responsibility, and kindred themes come home to the heart of a child with the force of realities to an extent that is never reached in later life by any efforts of our own; hence the supreme importance of family religion. The church and the family have a reciprocal action upon each other. The church must see that children are not only taught but trained to be Christians and made to realize that Christianity is a personal matter requiring Christian acts and right living. True discipleship requires one not only to know the truth but to have it permeate and thrill one's individuality and form an atmosphere which is ever present. Faithful pastoral work requires unwearied diligence, teaching, warning, and encouraging every one night and day. Much of the labor is like using the pruning knife, which may seem unpromising at the time yet accomplishes much in the season of fruit. The aim should be to have a living church established in every home, a home which shall be a foretaste of the heavenly home.

Should not every one who is blessed with a *home* strive ever to make it a home worthy of the name; a sacred region where hearts are sure of each other; where cheerfulness, truth, health of mind and heart, and unfailing love and sympathy perpetually abide; where the law of kindness rules every tongue; where every member of the household maintains uniform cheerfulness and carries on the face the radiance of a happy, contented and joyful soul; where all shall have the benefit of loving words, kindly spoken, and smiles; little things in them-

selves, yet fraught with blessing both to the giver and receiver.

None can escape life's burdens. Fortunately the sting of every burden vanishes before love's magic touch. Therefore live, so that love shall fill your days and nights and rule your world and you will be in possession of true wisdom.

Children and youth imperatively need the sunshine of the heart and home to educate them rightly. Thrice happy are those trained in a glad home where the Saviour is loved and honored and His truth practiced in daily life.

Such homes help to change the moral aspect of the community. They aid in fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah, "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them: and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose."

Every parent and every teacher should ever keep before the mind high ideals and strive with tireless energy to attain them; many fail from the lack of an ideal to inspire and ennoble work. The doers in life are those who know clearly what they wish to accomplish, and, like St. Paul, are ever reaching forth unto those things which are before. All others are dreamers; cumberers of the ground.

Solid and true work requires a well digested and clearly understood plan of action. No time should be spent in blundering or merely going through the form of doing.

Goethe says: "All that we truly call our own is our energy, our vigor, our will." Let all these go into our daily work.

The training of the young is a work of prime importance, and demands a loving heart, a determined



will, a strong purpose, an active imagination, ceaseless industry, and a faithfulness that makes its presence felt in everything. This, as everything else rightly accomplished, must be done by *Divine help*, combined with the exercise of the full faculties of heart and intellect. Let there be no dull following here. This of all work demands our best. I have emphasized the special instruction and training of the young for two reasons:—

1st. I regard this as a lesson of the text and a matter of overwhelming importance which should deeply exercise the minds of all Christian people. Surely it has a far reaching and great responsibility for all missionaries; especially those who have to do with education in China and training for future homes.

2nd. I believe, without reserve, that one of the most important duties of the Religious Tract Society is to secure and publish suitable literature of a pious character for this class—books *well* written and *well* illustrated. Mrs. Browning has said: “No child can be called fatherless who has God and his mother. No youth can be called friendless who has God and the companionship of good books.”

The greatest care should be taken to secure reading matter which will present religion in a style that will interest and take hold upon the heart and memory of each one who is able to read or listen.

Books admirably suited to the adult Christian may be dry as husks to the young mind.

Forcing the child to read books beyond his years “will create a distaste not only for them but for religion itself, as he will be led to associate with it the idea of some intolerable burden.” “Happy the child who is suffered to be and content to be what God meant it to



be—a child while childhood lasts. Happy the parent who does not force artificial manners, precocious feeling, and premature religion.”

It is a hopeful sign that religious juvenile literature has become a distinct department in Western lands, and I believe your society will not suffer itself to be surpassed. A glance over the catalogue shows that this class has not been overlooked.

After the needs of the children and youth are well supplied the next most important class to be provided for comprise the adult members and inquirers in the Christian church.

Parents need carefully prepared books, showing them not only what is required of them but how best to do the work successfully. The majority of this class will require to have the books written in the colloquial, as their limited education deprives them of the books written for the scholars. Lastly, many books written in a kind and sympathetic spirit are needed to supply the wants of every class—books calculated to impress, convince and win all who read them; books that will commend to every man’s conscience in the sight of God the truth of Christianity and the imperative duty of immediate acceptance in order to secure peace, joy, and blessing, both in this life and the life hereafter. A question of vital importance is how to secure the best books possible to meet the needs of every class.

Should not the preparation of such books be a distinct branch of missionary work? Should not the man or woman who has the requisite experience and qualification be set apart for this special work and released for the time from other pressing duties? Book-making is too important to be done hurriedly or in odd minutes when the mind is jaded and weary.

Should not all who write books heed well the lesson taught in the following Scripture, which seems to have special application to writers in the Chinese language? "The preacher was wise; he still taught the people knowledge; yea he gave good heed and sought out and set in order many proverbs. The preacher sought to find out acceptable words, and that which was written was upright, even words of truth. The words of the wise are as goads and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd."

Can it be claimed that all who have undertaken to write, translate, and prepare books for the Chinese have taken this preacher for their model?

I should have been glad if all could have shared with me the privilege I enjoyed of attending the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Chinese Tract Society. It was thrilling to hear those faithful men discuss the work of the past and how to best plan for the future. The secretary's report showed that during the past year more than fifteen millions of pages of tracts and books were published at a cost of more than nine thousand dollars.

A larger edition of Commentaries on both Old and New Testament were printed than ever before to meet the growing demand of those who desire to more fully understand the meaning of God's Word.

Before the organization of this Society was fully accomplished, a lady in England became so deeply interested in missions that she took off her jewelry and gave it, and it became the first contribution to the Society.

Twenty-six years later this lady's husband, a M.P., sent a contribution of £50 as a thankoffering for the re-

covery from a grave operation he was obliged to undergo. A pastor of New York sent his check for \$500 as the evidence of his interest in a Society carried on on such strictly business principles that it has never gone in debt but always been able to meet its liabilities.

Surely the work this Society is doing is worthy of the hearty co-operation of all missionaries and Christian men in China as well as in the homelands, and of the native church in China. Shall we not all esteem it a privilege not only to earnestly pray for the success of this important branch of missionary work but also do all we can to help answer our own prayers by giving contributions? Rev. J. E. Cardwell, the treasurer, I am sure will be glad to acknowledge all gifts, great or small, sent to him for this purpose.

While rejoicing and giving thanks for the grand and noble work your Society has accomplished the past quarter of a century, has not the time come for a *forward movement*?

In all the great business enterprises of the Western world there are specialists who give their time and energies to the special department for which their talents and training best fit them.

Has not the time come when there should be a more distinct division of labor on the mission field? Should not your Society have a secretary who would be free to give his whole heart and time to extending and perfecting the great work which God has clearly placed before you?

A man possessed of ingenuity and tact, of various resources and expedients, young in all his pulsations, and endued with courage and resolution that know no defeat would, as secretary, find abundance of work, not

only in his home office but all over the field where the society operates. He could, by God's blessing, do a work that would hasten the evangelization of China. He would soon know the persons entrusted with gifts for writing books and tracts, call their attention to the class of subjects imperatively needed, and save the mistakes made on the part of two or more persons translating the same book.

I believe, with all my heart, there is in China a large and ever widening opportunity for evangelistic work.

The printed pages can reach homes and individuals and exert a mighty influence over multitudes as perhaps nothing else can.

Let advance be the keynote of the future. Let us gird up our loins, trim our lamps, seek for renewed strength to lift heavy burdens, give more liberally, work more cheerfully, labor more wisely, pray more hopefully and do everything in our power to make every branch of mission work more aggressive than ever before, and God will help us.

During the excitement which followed the massacre at Tientsin in 1870, a man came to Chefoo from Chi-me, a distance of five days' journey on foot. He came to see and learn all he could about foreigners, whom he had never seen. Seeing a foreigner preaching in the street chapel he entered, took a seat and listened for a time. He was given several tracts, which he took to his home. When he returned the people of his village assembled to hear his report. When he spoke of his visit to the chapel a young school teacher asked him particularly what he heard. He could tell him but little, except that he heard about a Saviour, about death and eternity. He was unable to read, but gave the tracts he received to a teacher, who

read them and became so deeply interested that he came as an inquirer to Chefoo. Three years later one hundred persons—forty-nine of them women—were baptized and received into the church in that district. Severe and bitter persecution soon arose and has continued more or less severe to the present time.

The work, however, has extended, and the membership increased until there are now in that centre, within a radius of twenty miles, seven organized churches with an aggregate adult membership of nearly eight hundred persons. Each church has its own house of worship built by the people without help from the Mission.

The churches are grouped, so that four well educated and efficient men serve as pastors, who receive their support from the people they serve.

A number of schools have been established where not only the children of Christian parents but many others have been taught to read and write and to have higher ideals of the value of life. Intelligence now as never before directs and controls ignorance. Education is sought for both sons and daughters. By industry and good managements not a few have increased their possessions. Large and better houses have been built and the outlook to-day shows many tangible results in the betterment of daily living and a truer sense of the beautiful side of life.

“In the morning sow thy seed, nor stay thy hand at evening hour,  
Never asking which shall prosper; both may yield thee fruit and  
flower.

Thou shalt reap of that thou sowest.

It shall spring in strength and beauty, ripening in celestial light.”

When I arrived in China in 1863, Mrs. J. Landrum Holmes, of the American Southern Baptist Mission, was living at Têngchow in the province of Shantung. Her

husband had been killed by a band of robbers the previous year. In connection with her work among the women she supported and taught two little boys from heathen homes, named Wang. A part of the instruction was in English. One of the lads in later years became a shrewd and successful business man. For many years he was in Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s shipping office at Tientsin. About ten years ago this man seemed to awaken as from a dream. The Christian truth which had been sown in his mind, when a child, came to him with new interest and power. He sought the foreign physician to help him break off the opium habit. Later he and his wife returned to Têngchow and asked for baptism. They were received as members of the church. At the close of the service this man asked permission to speak. He gave a brief account of what had been done for him and earnestly entreated that a little school be opened where heathen boys might be taught as he had been. He handed his pastor a check for one thousand taels to help start the school. Many years ago Mrs. Holmes returned to the States in broken health. Later her son, an only child, died. Mr. Wong wrote to her and urged her to return to China and live in his home and he would be her son and provide for her. She was unable to come, but Mr. Wong sent gifts of money to her. Seven years ago he made arrangements to send Mrs. Holmes yearly a sum equal to seven hundred dollars Mexican.

This continued until his death four years ago. His last words to his wife were: Do not forget our dear mother in America, to whom under God we owe everything. Mrs. Wong, the widow, was in the city of Tientsin when it was taken by the allied troops in 1900. Her house was riddled with cannon balls and afterwards

looted. She lost much, and regards the saving of her life as a miracle. She has, however, each year been able to send the money in accordance with her husband's wishes.

Thirty-five years ago a young widow, a Mrs. Liu, came with her only son of eight years to Chefoo. Her husband, after squandering all his property, died an opium wreck, leaving his wife and son entirely destitute. She came among strangers seeking some way of earning a livelihood. A soldier on the street heard her sad story and told her she had better go and see the missionaries on Temple Hill, whom he had heard had pity for the afflicted. She did so. Her son was taken into school and a place was found for her. Later she found employment in the family of a foreign merchant. She proved so faithful and efficient that she was greatly valued and paid good wages.

Later when one of the daughters was married from that home this widow was sent with the bride and groom to the house where they expected to spend their honeymoon. During the night the house caught fire and was entirely consumed. This woman, at the risk of her own life, groped her way in the dark and through stifling heat and smoke, and succeeded in breaking open the door and rescuing the foreigners, who otherwise would certainly have perished. For this act of bravery a gold medal was secured for her. Her son proved a faithful student, stood well in his class and at the end of twelve years graduated with honor at the Têngchow college.

He then entered the theological class, but after about two years was obliged, on account of ill-health, to give up before completing the course.



He then taught for several years, but unable to endure the confinement, he went into business where he could spend more time in the open air. His business prospered until he now owns property at T'sing-tao valued at forty thousand dollars. As soon as he was able he paid the principal and interest on all the money that had been spent on his education.

His contributions last year were five hundred Mexican dollars to help build a new church at Chefoo. Another equal sum for a new church at Ts'ing-tao, fifty dollars towards the pastor's salary at Ts'ing-tao, forty dollars for the same at Chefoo.

In addition to this he aided hundred in the education of their children and assisted needy friends.

He not only gives cheerfully and liberally of his money but takes his turn on the Sabbath and during week days in conducting services when the pastor is absent or otherwise engaged. What the Bible says of Cornelius and his family could be truly said of this man. The above will serve as specimens of what the gospel of Christ is able to do and is doing for multitudes in China. The living Christ as a transforming power has entered many hearts. Happy Christian homes have been formed where men and women are living noble Christian lives and training their children in accordance with the teaching of God's Word, the one indispensable book. In proportion as the Bible is loved, studied, and obeyed souls are nourished into life. When it enters hearts and homes, all breathe a new spirit of purity. The authority of parents is recognized and children are endowed with new strength and the spirit of obedience.

Do not such cases, like the cluster of grapes from the land of Canaan, show that China is an exceeding good land?



Shall we not take courage and in the spirit of Joshua and Calab say : " If the Lord delight in us then He will bring us into this land and give it us, a land which floweth with milk and honey." Let hope illumine the whole horizon. " The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." Ignorance and sin cannot forever hold people in slavery.

Nothing is too hard for God. The things that are impossible with men are possible with God, and He can do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think. With these assurances pessimism would be infidelity and gross forgetfulness of God. There is no breaking of God's purposes, nor resisting His power.

" The Lord of hosts is with us.

The God of Jacob is our refuge."







THE CONSTITUTION  
OF THE TRACT SOCIETY  
AUXILIARY  
TO  
THE CHINESE TRACT SOCIETY.

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I.—The object of this Society shall be to aid in circulating Religious Books and Tracts throughout the Chinese Empire, but more especially to canvass each month in.....,\* visiting every family.

II.—The Officers shall be a President, Vice-President, two Secretaries (a native and a foreigner), a Treasurer, and as many Distributors as the Board of Managers shall deem necessary to work the field occupied by the Society.

III.—These Officers shall constitute a Board of Managers, which shall meet monthly or oftener, to transact all business necessary to the working of the Society.

IV.—It shall be the duty of the Distributors to visit every family within their district once a month and to impart religious instruction and leave such Tracts as each case may seem to need ; and by the sale of Books and Tracts and the collection of money to secure the means for extending the work.

V.—The Officers shall be elected annually by the members at the Annual Meetings, though the Board may fill vacancies and appoint new Distributors.

VI.—Each person subscribing to the funds of the Society .....cash or upwards per annum, shall be considered a member and be entitled to hold office and vote at the Annual Meeting.

VII.—Each person who subscribes at one time.....cash or upwards, shall be considered a member for life.

VIII.—An Annual Meeting shall be held on the first TUESDAY in September, at which reports by the Secretary and Treasurer shall be presented, and on the following Sunday an Annual Sermon shall be preached in Chinese, and if practicable in English.

IX.—A copy of the Annual Report shall be forwarded to the Corresponding Secretary of the parent Society at Shanghai.

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\* Here designate the town, city, or district the Society proposes to occupy.

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